19th May 1954]

* 935 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Director of Public Instruction has issued orders to increase the ratio of pupils to a teacher from 35 to 60; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" This is with reference to the Parulekar Committee's report. In view of the decision of the Government with regard to that report which I have announced yesterday on the floor of the House, this question will not arise, Sir."

Damages due to the attack of pest and diseases on the paddy crops in Gingee taluk.

* 936 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the extent of damages caused by the attack of pest and diseases on the paddy crops in Gingee taluk during the period from July to December 1953?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" About 17 per cent of the paddy crop or about 1,950 acres were affected by pests and diseases in the Gingee taluk during the period from July to December 1953."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" Sir, it is not 1,950 odd acres, but about 20,000 acres of paddy crop that has been affected. It seems that the Government have not given so far any remission for them. There was also failure on the part of the Agriculture Department to supply the necessary insecticides. May I know what steps the Government have taken regarding the default of the Agriculture Department? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not admit there was any default as such. When the stock of insecticides was exhausted, it was immediately replenished. Whatever be the extent of crops that were affected by pests, the damage is assessed only at 17 per cent."

Imprisonment for default in the payment of sales tax.

* 937 *Q.*—SRI K. T. RAJU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of merchants imprisoned for default in the payment of sales tax;

(*b*) how many of them are women; and

(*c*) how many are really unable to pay sales tax?